

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01154 230937Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----085810 231426Z /42

R 230805Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6352

UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 1154

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, BAGB, SO
SUBJ: CASTLE AND COOK TRIP

REF: USDOC 09433

1. UPON ARRIVAL MOGADISCIO ON MAY 18, CASTLE AND COOK REPS CARTER, EDGERTON AND HANNEMAN CONTACTED EMBASSY AFTER FAILING TO REACH ANYONE AT BANANA BOARD. EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY LEARNED OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S DECISION TO POSTPONE MEETINGS ON MAY 17 AND INFORMED CASTLE AND COOK REPS OF THIS DECISION. EMBASSY THEN ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF CASTLE AND COOK WITH BEHI OF BANANA BOARD AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, BUT BOTH REFUSED. AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN AND EMBASSY OFFICERS BRIEFED CASTLE AND COOK REPS ON POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOMALIA. CASTLE AND COOK REPS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FLYING TO KISMAYO TO TOUR BANANA REGION, BUT BEHI ADVISED AGAINST THIS. CASTLE AND COOK REPS THEN RENTED CAR ON THEIR OWN AND INSPECTED THE BANANA REGIONS NEAR MOGADISCIO. REPS FRUSTRATED OVER FOUL-UP BUT APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY EFFORTS TO FACILITATE THEIR VISIT. VICE PRESIDENT CARTER SAID HE PLANNED TO CONTINUE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY VIA USDOC FOR POSSIBLE LATER MEETINGS AND WOULD KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED.

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2. EMBASSY ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT BEHI WEEK PRIOR TO CASTLE AND COOK REPRESENTATIVES' ARRIVAL BUT WERE UNABLE TO REACH UNTIL MAY 17. AT THAT POINT BEHI RETURNED EMBASSY CALL TO REPORT THAT THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY BRIEFED ON THE CASTLE AND COOK VISIT AND WAS THEREFORE UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY CARRY ON DISCUSSIONS WITH CASTLE AND COOK REPS.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD SENT TELEX TO CASTLE AND COOK HEADQUARTERS INFORMING THEM OF POSTPONEMENT (WHICH, OF COURSE, ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR THE CASTLE AND COOK REPS).

3. EMBASSY PLANS SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND RESPONSIBLE SOMALI OFFICIALS THAT TREATMENT OF CASTLE AND COOK REPS IS NOT BEST APPROACH TO BUILDING CONFIDENCE WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN.
VOUGHT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI01154
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780217-0495
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780529/aaaaaylk.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c4924698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2604044
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CASTLE AND COOK TRIP
TAGS: BENC, BAGB, SO
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c4924698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014